

One Thousand Scouts, One Hundred Eagles, One Community

Boy Scout Troop 82 hasn't measured its success by the number of scouts who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Instead, we consider our strength in terms of the leadership opportunities and life lessons provided for so many of our community's young men since 1930. Adults remove barriers to plans and enable adventures to unfold while boys plan and lead. One former scout is serving in Iraq representing all our troop's Veterans dating back to WW II. We hope that he finds value in the leadership lessons learned while in our troop. Another former scout, Ray Ford, presented our troop with a Boy Scout pennant from President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the 1937 Jamboree. Scouting, like any organization is not perfect, but its core goals are good and time-tested. We think that all young men learn something important about self-sufficiency, teamwork and service to community. Less than 10% reach Eagle rank in our troop. Quite simply, it's not an easy accomplishment. Each Scout hones life skills as they complete merit badges, participate in community projects and hold various elected. Only after several years in the troop does a scout reach the final step. He creates designs and manages a project to benefit our community.

After nearly eighty years, we are pleased to announce our 100th Eagle Scout. Our Eagle scouts include many young men who have positively contributed to our community. From our first Eagle of the depression era, Art Vail, to Ted Blevins (Blevins Junior High), while WW II raged in 1944. From Bill Bartran (Bartran Homes) as the Berlin Airlift dropped food on a besieged city, to Sig Palm as Sputnik lifted off. Eagles found a way through the turbulent 60's and 70's.

Dr. E. Gordon Kruse led the troop as Scoutmaster from 1959 – 1965. Terry Anderson took the reins of the troop as the Scoutmaster in 1971 and led it for over two decades. Both are still active providing a living history to the unit. Several former scouts have returned to lead their own sons. Alumni Jerry Schiager and Randy Sievers watched their sons become one of the one hundred. Sig Palm returned to help the Troop as his grandson begins his scouting journey. And yet, there is always new blood as our troop draws from the entire community's population. Each Monday night teens from throughout Fort Collins gather to learn and work together in our troop room. They spend time together in the outdoors enjoying the most beautiful environment. They solve problems and share adventures as they canoe through rapids, build snow caves, hike in the high country or bicycle through the Black Hills. The tenets of scouting will serve our young men well as they confront the challenges of their lifetime. Learning to work and learn together will be more important than ever as we face difficulties our nation hasn't seen in a long time. Our troop is proud of all of our Scouts and their accomplishments but we count those who are among or who will join the one hundred as a particularly special group. (Number 87 is particularly special to me). You can read more about us and see a list of our Eagle Scouts by visiting on our web site (<http://www.troop82-fc.org/>).

Ed Peyronnin
Committee Member
Boy Scout Troop 82
Fort Collins, CO